

Message Text

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50/42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01

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O P 271153Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4410

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ((PARA 1))

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO

SUBJ: CONTINUED PRESS TREATMENT ON ALLEGED U.S./CIA AID
TO PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 5470 DTG 171117Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO PLAY UP REPORTS
FROM U.S. THAT USG SENT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO SUPPORT
PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY VIA EUROPEAN "MIDDLE-MEN." LATEST
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ITEM ON THIS TOPIC CITED STATEMENT BY "RESPONSIBLE SOURCE" IN

STATE DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. SEPT. 26 LISBON AFTERNOON PAPERS CONTINUED HEAVY PLAY ON U.S.-DATELINED STORIES ALLEGING U.S. SUPPORT TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS. LATEST ELEMENTHIN SUCH REPORT WAS CITATION FROM AFP WASHINGTON-DATELINED STORY AS FOLLOWS: "ACCORDINGO TO A RESPONSIBLE SOURCE IN THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, THE C.I.A. FURNISHED SEVERAL MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY, IN AN EFFORT TO COUNTER-BALANCE AID GIVEN THE COMMUNIST PARTY BY THE SOVIET UNION." ARTICLE GOES ON TO PICK UP EARLIER MATERIAL FROM LESLIE GELB'S NYTIMES STORY PLUS SOARES' DENIAL AND LISBON COMMUNISTS' "NO COMMENT." (SEE REFTEL). SEPT. 26 INDEPENDENDENT LEFTIST "A CAPITAL" PUTS HEADLINE "AMERICAN OFFICIAL CONFIRMS ASSISTANCE TO SOCIALIST PARTY WHILE SOARES DENIES IT IN PARIS." INDEPENDENT LEFTIST "DIARIO POPULAR" REPRINTS FULL GELB ARTICLE INSIDE WITH FRONT-PAGE TEASER HEADLINE--"MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON AID FACTIONS FIGHTING IN PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA, NEW YORK TIMES REVEALS."

2. COMMENT: IT UNCLEAR WHETHER LATEST INPUT INTO THIS STORY AS PUBLISHED IN LISBON WAS SIMPLY AN AFP REWRITE OF GELB, AN ACTUAL STATEMENT BY SOMEONE IN DEPT, OR A REWRITE OF MURREY MARDER WASHINGTON POST ITEM WHICH SAID USG GAVE "UNINTENDED CREDENCE TO REPORTS THAT U.S. SUPPLYING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES...BY REFUSING TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE ACCOUNTS." AT ANY RATE, CONTINUING STORIES KEEP DAMAGING ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA IN LIMELIGHT IN PORTUGAL.

3. NYTIMES CORRESPONDENT FLORA LEWIS PRESSED AMBASSADOR ON ISSUE TODAY, BUT WAS GIVEN NO COMMENT, THE REPLY EMBASSY USING FOR ALL INQUIRIES. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED IF THERE IS ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE.
CARLUCCI

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